

school's first National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) championship game on December 17, 2011. The Cougars, who call my district home, will compete for the title in Rome, Georgia, against Carroll College of Montana.

St. Xavier defeated Marian University on December 3rd to go 13-1 for the season and earn a trip to the title game. Marian was the only school to defeat St. Xavier this year, and the Cougars avenged their loss in exciting fashion to earn their title birth. With SXU leading by three points in the final moments of the game, Marian was threatening to score with a first-and-goal situation. On third down, SXU freshman Clayton Fejedelem intercepted a pass in the end zone to seal the victory.

The Cougars' potent spread offense was on full display in the second half of the contest with three touchdowns through the air. St. Xavier's offense leads the NAIA in scoring offense with 45.9 points per game. Just as impressive was the defense as it held Marian's star running back to just 26 yards on 16 carries.

SXU had come close in the past, making it to the NAIA semifinals three times before, but this year the fourth time was the charm. When the Cougars face Carroll College tomorrow, I am confident they will be ready to take on the Fighting Saints. Please join me in honoring the St. Xavier University Cougars football team and their head coach, Mike Feminis, on competing in the NAIA National Championship and sealing their place as a perennial football powerhouse. May they perform like champions and bring back a national championship trophy.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, while I am deeply concerned about Iran's capacity to develop nuclear weapons and I support targeted sanctions against Iran, I voted no on H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2011 because I do not believe it would accomplish its stated goal of reducing the threat from Iran.

I am concerned that at a time when more nuanced diplomatic tools are needed to successfully address this important and multifaceted effort to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, this legislation would dangerously limit the flexibility of the U.S. Government to engage directly with Iran to turn back these efforts. The Administration has made it clear that the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act (CISADA), enacted just last year after careful deliberation by both the House and Senate, is an adequate and effective tool for addressing the threat potentially posed through multilateral negotiations with Iran. I have spoken directly with officials at the State Department and they tell me they are very concerned that piling on additional sanctions could have the counter-

productive result of sending the already destabilized economies of our European allies into a tailspin and threaten the stability of the global economic recovery.

I am also troubled by the 601(c) provision inserted during mark-up of the bill, which takes the unprecedented step of restricting dialogue between U.S. and Iranian officials. The controversial provision would prohibit contact between U.S. diplomats and any Iranian official who "would pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the vital national security interests of the United States." This is dangerous and would have prohibited the efforts that secured the release of two of my constituents, Sarah Shourd and Shane Bauer, along with their friend and fellow U.C. Berkeley alumnus Josh Fattal, who were detained for years in Iran after being arrested while hiking near Iran's border with Northern Iraq. Furthermore, not only is it unclear how restricting negotiations with Iran on its nuclear program would advance our security interests, it should be clear that taking this option off the table is counterproductive in addressing the very real threats that Iran presents.

It is my hope that my colleagues will address these issues in conference and return a bill for final passage that considers what it takes to effectively undertake national security strategy execution. It is time for us to stop posturing and to understand that far from a reward to withhold, diplomacy is a critical tool for protecting United States national security interests.

IN HONOR OF ALBERT CASWELL AND THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR NATION'S ARMED SERVICES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Albert "Bert" Caswell.

Bert has worked as a United States Capitol tour guide for over twenty-five years. He is known throughout the Capitol for his extraordinary work and selfless attitude. After hours, Bert volunteers his time offering Capitol tours to wounded veterans and participants of the Make-A-Wish foundation. He also visits and writes poems for wounded soldiers at local hospitals to lift their spirits and celebrate their heroic nature.

Mr. Speaker, I submit before you a poem, authored by Albert, reflecting on the extraordinary sacrifices and courage of the men and women of our Nation's Armed Services.

CHRISTMAS TEARS

This Christmas season, as you awake. . . .
Please, so take the time to so take. . . .
To remember in this December, all of those
families whose hearts now quake. . . .
For they are so separated, so far across the
shores . . . by such dark and most evil
war. . . .
All in fear, not knowing . . . if but their
loved ones may live but one day more.
. . . .
So say a prayer. . . .
Because, there will be tears across this nation. . . . Christmas Tears. . . .
And as you so see the smiles upon your children's faces. . . .

Remember, there are such men and women of honor, fighting all in such dark places.

. . . .
Giving all of their treasure, oh yes That Last Full Measure . . . so you may live in peace. . . .

So say a prayer and shed a tear, for all of them and all of these so here . . . Our Patriots of Peace!

And all of the ones, who now so in hospitals, who have so just begun their new battles in this new year. So shed a tear.

. . . .
For the ones who now so live without arms and legs, and holes in all places . . . teaching us all what faith is!

For them all so shed a tear!

And for all of those most magnificent ones, as Thy Will Be Done, On Earth As It Is In Heaven now in the ground . . . for freedom won! Shed a tear. . . .

For all those little boys and girls, who have just lost their best friends in the world. . . .

Its so sad now, shed a tear. . . .

And as you so sing your songs of joy, remember all of these little girls and boys in your hearts so very loud! And shed a tear. . . .

And in this evening as you break your bread, remember to say a prayer for all those whom have bled!

All so you can be free and live in peace. . . . Please shed a tear, and say a prayer for all of these. . . .

A child is born. . . .

As we remember on this golden morn. . . .

Remember all of their Christian Acts, for their courage does not lack. . . .

So for all of our Armed Forces, shed a tear.

. . . .
Say a prayer, that they will all be home one day . . . safe and sound in the coming years. . . .

And on this Christmas night as you so lay yourself down to sleep. . . .

All in your hearts, so very deep. . . . Say a prayer. . . .

That our Lord will so watch over all of these.

. . . .

And say a prayer for peace . . . do so please.

. . . .

Now, on this night from high above. . . .

But comes a gentle rain, soft falling snow flakes from our Lord all in his love.

. . . .

All for their selfless sacrifice, all of these fine men and women who now must fight. . . .

Are but our Lord's tears, for all these and their families on this night. . . .

So say a prayer and shed a tear, and so pray that they will all be back next year.

. . . .

But, with their loved ones, on Christmas night. . . .

Lord God, Bless Them. . . . Bless Them All! Thank Them All. . . .

And say a prayer and shed a tear for all those most magnificent families and heroes who answer the call!

Thank them all and shed a tear.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on December 14, 2011, I inadvertently cast "yea" votes on the final passage of H.R. 1905 and H.R. 2105. I am opposed to both bills.